

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 18, 2004

REPLY TO: KEC-4  
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-173)

TO: Mickey Carter  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Kenney Creek Riparian Fence

**Project No:** 1994-017-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 6.10 Access Fencing

**Location:** Lemhi County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the installation of approximately 5,000 feet of 4-pole jack fence along Kenney Creek in Lemhi County, Idaho. The proposed fence will meet or exceed BPA's minimum requirement of a 35-foot setback from the stream. The fence will restrict livestock access to a riparian area of approximately 16.4 acres. The goal of this project is to enhance salmon and steelhead rearing and migration habitat through exclusion fencing.

**Analysis:** The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Allen Bradbury with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (July 21, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Snake River chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River Basin bull trout. It was determined that the proposed fence construction project would have no effect on these species. The area proposed for construction is used primarily for agriculture. Gray wolf and Canada lynx are not known to occur in the immediate project vicinity. Bald eagle may perch in nearby cottonwoods but there will be no removal of trees and noise disturbance will be minimal. ESA listed fish may be present in the project vicinity but will not be affected because the project does not involve instream work; all impacts will take place a considerable distance from the streambanks. The area has excellent ground cover and high quality riparian vegetation that will act as a buffer to any potential sediment created by installation of the fence.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service (Boise National Forest), under their existing Programmatic Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A description of the Kenney Creek Riparian Fence project and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that an archaeological survey was needed. Bruce Blackmere with NRCS conducted an intensive-complete survey of the project

site and cultural resources were not identified. The location of one section of fence, which will include a water gap, has not been determined. Before installation takes place in this location, an additional archaeological survey will be required. Based on these findings, it was recommended that the project proceed as planned in Sections 29 and 30, however work in Section 31 associated with the water gap should not proceed until a survey has been completed and BPA has been provided appropriate documentation. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Kenney Creek Riparian Fence project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Kenney Creek Riparian Fence project. This project was coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Department of Water Resources, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. In addition, the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District and Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team hold monthly meetings that are open to the public in which this project was discussed.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 8-18-04  
Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney DATE: 8-18-04  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

**Attachments:**  
NEPA Compliance Checklist  
NRCS Cultural Resource Findings, August 11, 2004

cc: (w/ attachments)  
Mr. Alan Bradbury – Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District